quested to take necessary corrective action.

Modernisation and expansion of Telecommunication net-work

247. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to modernise and expand telecommunication net-work in the country during the Seventh plan period;

(b) if so, what specific steps have been taken in that regard in Orissa;

(c) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(b) and (c) Specific steps have been taken to modernise expand and improve the telecom network in Orissa during the 7th Plan Period by way of :

—Commissioning of Digital Trunk Automatic Exchange.

—Commissioning of SFMs and SFT systems.

—Automatisation of manual exchanges by strowger/electronic equipment.

—Opening new digital and storwger telephone exchanges.

—Expansion of existing exchanges.

—Replacement of strowger exchanges by electronic exchanges.

—Commissioning of new notional telex exchanges.

—Expansion of existng telex exchanges.

—Opening of Long Distance Public Telephones.

—Introduction of STD services.

—Provision of reliable transmission media.

The achievements made during the 7th Plan upto November, 89 in respect of broad parameters is as under :

—Addition of about 23,000 telephone switching capacity.

—Provision of about 20,000 new telephone connections.

—Addition of 200 lines telex capacity.

—Provision of 223 new telex connections.

—Opening of about 500 Long Distance Public Telephones.

—Provision of STD at 25 new stations.

—Commissioning of 1000 line Digital TAX at Cuttack.